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KENNEDY SHOT DEAD

Gunned Down During Drive Through Dallas

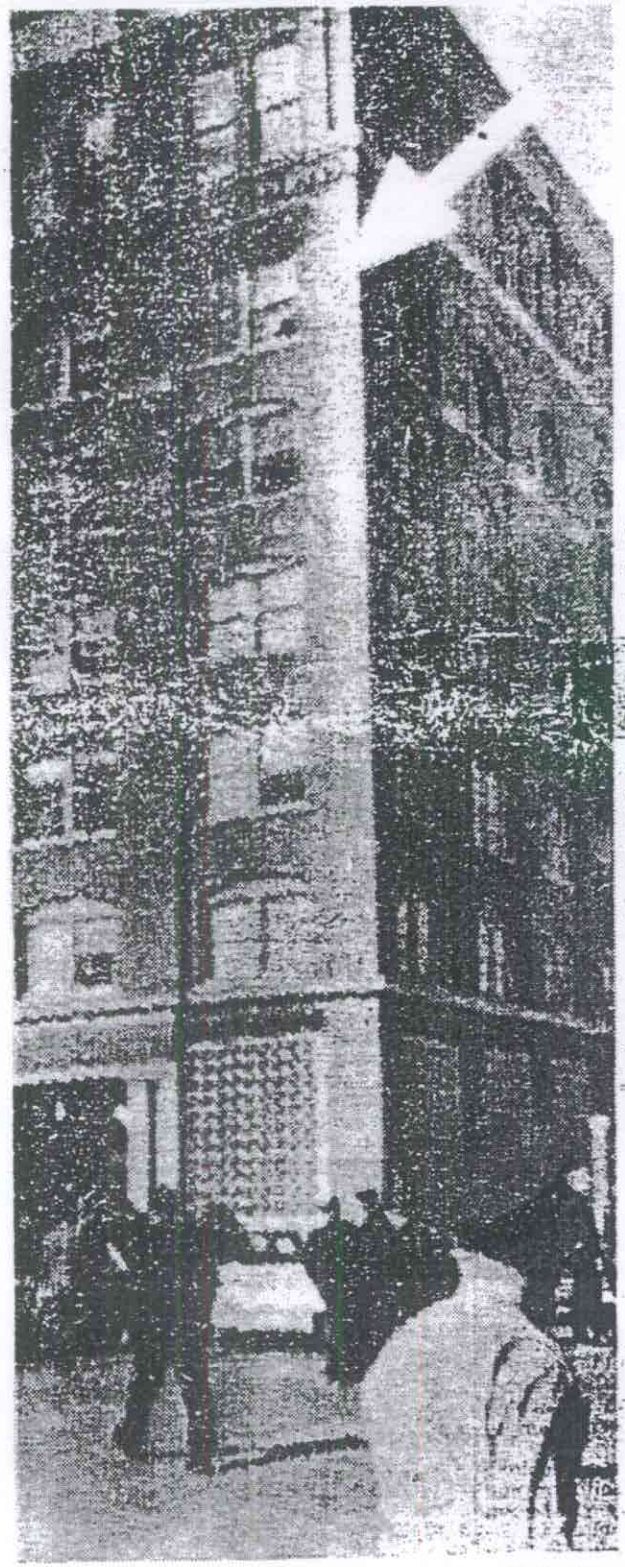
N.Z.P.A.-A.A.P.

DALLAS (Texas), November 22.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY was assassinated to-day. The President was shot as he drove through this Texas city in an open car. The Governor of Texas (Mr John Connally) was seriously wounded. The President died at 7 a.m. Saturday, New Zealand time. After the burst of gun-fire cut down the President, he was rushed to Parkland Hospital, where blood transfusions were given.

Priests were summoned to his bed-side for the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. The President was cradled in his wife's arms immediately after the shooting. Mrs Kennedy, who was unhurt, sobbed, "Oh, no," as the President slumped back with a shot in his head.

The assassination took place near a three-highway intersection close to the business area of the city. Within seconds of the shooting, Mr Kennedy slumped over in the back seat of the car, face down. Mr Connally lay on the floor of the rear seat.



An arrow points to the window from which the assassin shot President Kennedy in Dallas to-day.
—Radio Picture.

Three bursts of gunfire, apparently from automatic weapons, were heard.

Secret service men immediately unslung their automatic weapons and pistols.

Mrs Kennedy and the Governor's wife, who was also in the car, both crouched over the inert forms of their husbands as the car sped towards the hospital.

Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, who now becomes President of the United States, was in the car immediately behind the President.

A White House medical officer said President Kennedy was shot in the right temple.

"It was a simple matter of a bullet right through the head," he said.

The identity of the assassin or assassins was not immediately known but one young man near the scene of the shooting was taken into custody.

A television reporter on the scene said he saw a rifle being withdrawn from a window on the fifth or sixth floor of an office building shortly after the shooting.

Net Out

Immediately after the shooting police spread a vast dragnet over the city as they hunted for the assassin.

The Associated Press of America said authorities believed the fatal shots were fired by a white man.

The murder weapon was reported to be a 30-30 calibre rifle.

Mr Kennedy was 46.

He went to Texas yesterday at the start of an intensive political tour.

Senator Ralph Yarborough, who was riding in the third car behind the President, told reporters: "It seemed to me that at least two of the shots came from our right rear."

Senator Yarborough was crying as he gave his eyewitness account.

"You could tell something awful and tragic had happened.

"I could see a secret service man in the President's car wringing his hands in anger, anguish, and despair."

Dallas is considered to be a centre of conservative philosophy and finance.

Here, on October 24, the United States Ambassador to the United Nations (Mr Adlai Stevenson) was spat upon by one heckler and struck by another after making a United Nations Day address.

Badly Hurt

The second man wounded in the assassination, Governor Connally, was reported to be in a serious condition as surgeons operated.

But doctors said his "vital signs were good."

One eyewitness of the shooting said President and Mrs Kennedy were looking at a dog in the middle of the street when the gunfire came.

"There were three shots.

"The President grabbed his chest and fell over his seat and Jackie fell over him," the eyewitness, Mrs Jean Hill, said.

Another eyewitness said that immediately another shot rang out he saw a policeman fall to the ground, pull his pistol, and yell "Get down."

He went on: "A negro man across the street picked up his little girl and ran. A woman nearby fainted."

'Awful Look'

Another eyewitness, Charles Brehn, said he was 15ft away from the President when he was shot.

"He was waving, then the first shot hit him and that awful look crossed his face."

As the gunfire sounded, motor-cycle police spread out and raced toward where people were huddled.

There was pandemonium, United Press International reported.

The President's car immediately swung out of the line of travel and raced behind screaming motor-cycle police sirens to hospital.

The President's body was carried from the hospital in a wooden coffin, U.P.I. reported.

Mrs Kennedy accompanied the body. About fifty uniformed policemen surrounded the area, driving back hundreds of spectators surrounding the hospital.

The coffin was placed in a white Cadillac hearse and the drapes were pulled.

Traffic Jam

A tremendous traffic jam developed around Parkland Hospital.

White House officials stood sorrowfully, looking stunned, in corridors and in a waiting room.

N.B.C. television said police had taken possession of a British .303 Lee Enfield rifle — a model sold in America as a hunting weapon, Reuter reported.

The rifle had a telescopic sight and was found near a corner window of the building from which the shots were fired.

The empty cartridge case was on the floor.

N.B.C. radio reported that a car believed to be the getaway car of the assassin had been seized in Fort Worth, Texas.

A suspect had been taken into custody.

Those who saw Mrs Kennedy after the hospital said she had not been hysterical.

The White House staff said Mrs Kennedy would return to Washington late to-day to be with her children, Caroline, aged 6, and John jun., who will be 3 next week.

TURN TO PAGE 3

ASSASSINATION, FROM PAGE 1

Battle by Doctors to Save President's Life

Reuter quoted doctors as saying that the President died of wounds in the neck and head.

They were possibly caused by the same bullet, but there may have been two bullets.

The President did not regain consciousness from the moment he was struck, the doctors said, according to Reuter.

The President's throat was opened to relieve breathing, and blood and fluids were administered intravenously.

Physicians laboured to keep respiration at a life-sustaining level, U.P.I. said.

Dr Malcolm Perry, the hospital surgeon said he was summoned immediately after the President was brought to the emergency entrance of Parkland Hospital.

Critical

"I noticed he was in a critical condition from a wound in the neck and head," Dr Perry said.

"Immediate respiration methods were taken and Dr Clark was summoned, along with other members of the surgical staff.

"They arrived immediately, but at this point the President's condition did not allow complete resuscitation.

"He was critical and moribund. Dr Clark assisted respiration with oxygen."

Dr Clark said: "They called me because the President had a brain wound.

"Tracheotomy and resuscitation were done to relieve the possibility of air being in the pleural space, between the lung and the chest.

"Shortly after I arrived, the President lost his heart action."

Dr Perry tried closed chest cardiac massage, to no avail.

Dr Clark said the President lived 40 minutes from the time of the shooting until death was pronounced.

Few at Spot

The President, halfway through a three-day Texas tour, was shot at a spot where there were few spectators, A.P. said.

Most of the huge crowd had gathered at other spots along the route.

A crowd of several thousand had been waiting at the Dallas Trade Mart, to which the President was driving to give a luncheon speech.

A stunned hush fell over the crowd as the news was announced.

Many who were to attend the luncheon broke down and wept.

The main body of the White House press corps was at the rear of the motorcade, riding in two buses, A.P. said.

These men and women, who covered the President's day-to-day activities, knew nothing of the shooting until they reached the trade mart.

The transparent plastic roof of the President's vehicle had been removed for the motorcade.

Secret Service agents riding with the President were in a second convertible following close behind.

They immediately drew pistols and automatic weapons, but they were unable to get a shot at the assassin.

20 Years Between

N.Z.P.A.-A.A.P.
WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.

President Kennedy's assassination continues the coincidence that American Presidents elected at twenty-year intervals in zero-numbered years die in office.

The list includes:

1840—William Henry Harrison.
1860—Abraham Lincoln.
1880—James A. Garfield.
1900—William McKinley.
1920—Warren G. Harding.
1940—Franklin D. Roosevelt.
1960—John F. Kennedy.

Raced Away

After the fatal shots were fired the Presidential car's Secret Service driver raced away from the scene at top speed.

He was heading for the nearest hospital and trying to get the Presidential party out of range of further gunfire.

The assassination of President Kennedy hit a sunny New York like a bomoshell to-day, according to a New York message.

Lunch-hour crowds clustered grave-faced round transistor and car radios as the news spread.

Soon the pavements were jammed outside radio and television shops as the news reached America's largest city.

Some women were crying.

There was pandemonium at the White House, where operators valiantly tried to answer the flood of calls which began coming in.

In New York the Stock Exchange closed.

Recess

The Senate immediately recessed its sittings and practically every Government office came virtually to a standstill.

A workman told the Presi-

dent's father and mother in Hyannis Port that the President had been shot while visiting Dallas.

The President's father is a semi-invalid as the result of a stroke several years ago.

He was napping when the word came.

At the United Nations in New York, delegates were plunged into deep shock by the shooting.

United Nations officials telephoned the news to the Secretary-General (U Thant), who was lunching in a New York restaurant.

The chief United States delegate, Mr Adlai Stevenson, left a private luncheon party at the United Nations and hurried back to his office to listen to the radio.

Officials said Mr Stevenson "was obviously so shocked he had nothing to say."

Wept

When word of the President's death was received, many delegates and Secretariat staff wept openly.

Five members of President Kennedy's Cabinet were out of the country, flying to Japan, when the President was killed.

An hour and a half out of Honolulu, the secretaries were advised of the killing and immediately turned back.

They were expected to speed back to Washington.

The party was on the way to a meeting with members of the Japanese Cabinet.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower to-day called the assassination of President Kennedy a "despicable act."

The former President, in a statement issued from his suite at a New York hotel, said: "I share the sense of shock and dismay that all Americans feel at the despicable act that resulted in the death of our nation's President."

Governor Nelson Rockefeller said to-day that the death of President Kennedy is a "terrible tragedy for the nation and the world."

Former President Harry S. Truman, who himself was an intended victim of assassins' bullets thirteen years ago this month, was too stricken by news of President Kennedy's assassination to-day to comment immediately.

In Washington, Senator Barry F. Goldwater issued a statement from his Washington office to-day declaring President Kennedy's assassination "shocking" and dreadful.

Senator Goldwater, who had been considered a potential rival of Mr Kennedy's in next year's Presidential election, learned of the chief executive's death in Chicago.

Later, his office issued this statement on the Senator's behalf: "It is both shocking and dreadful that a thing like this could happen in a free country. The President's death is a profound loss to the nation and the free world."

Flew Home

Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his sister, Mrs Eunice Schriver, flew red-eyed and sombre to Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, to-day to be with their parents.

The late President's youngest brother and his sister, the wife of the Peace Corps director, arrived at Andrews Air Force base by helicopter and within minutes had boarded a jet for Cape Cod to be with their parents.

Senator Kennedy was presiding over the Senate chamber when he was informed that his brother had been shot.